



# OPERATOR / PARTS MANUAL

## CLASSIC 4-CYCLE TILLER

7262



## IMPORTANT!

Assembly Instructions Start on Page 6!

Please review the Warnings & Safety Information on pages 3-5  
and the Assembly Instructions before unpacking the box.

# Welcome to the World of Mantis Gardening

Here's your new MANTIS Classic 4-Cycle Tiller . . . the lightweight wonder that's Changing the Way Americans Garden.®

Unlike big tillers, your MANTIS Tiller weighs only 24 pounds. So it lifts easily, handles smoothly, tills and weeds precisely. And, unlike other small tillers, it features serpentine tines that churn soil to ten inches deep. It creates a soft, smooth seed bed, even in problem soil.

Once you know how to use your tiller correctly, we guarantee you'll love it. So first, please read this manual. It shows, step by step, how to use your tiller safely. Plus, it shows how the MANTIS Border Edger can make light work of your edging needs.

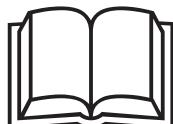
If you have questions about any topic in this Manual, or for the name of your local dealer, call **1-800-366-6268** toll free, Monday – Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Eastern Time. Dealers can also be located online at [www.mantis.com](http://www.mantis.com).

Attention MANTIS Product Owners! Get maintenance tips for your MANTIS product on our website at [www.mantis.com](http://www.mantis.com).

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This Operator's / Parts Manual is part of the machine. Suppliers of both new and second-hand machines must make sure that this manual is provided with the machine.

### **IMPORTANT MESSAGE**

Thank you for purchasing this Schiller Grounds Care, Inc. product. You have purchased a world class product, one of the best designed and built anywhere.

This machine comes with Operation and Safety instructions, Parts and Service instructions and Engine instructions. The useful life and good service you receive from this machine depends to a large extent on how well you read and understand these manuals. Treat your machine properly, lubricate and adjust it as instructed, and it will give you many years of reliable service.

Your safe use of this Schiller Grounds Care, Inc. product is one of our prime design objectives. Many safety features are built in, but we also rely on your good sense and care to achieve accident-free operation. For best protection, study the manuals thoroughly. Learn the proper operation of all controls. Observe all safety precautions. Follow all instructions and warnings completely. Do not remove or defeat any safety features. Make sure those who operate this machine are as well informed and careful in its use as you are.

See a Schiller Grounds Care, Inc. dealer for any service or parts needed. Schiller Grounds Care, Inc. service ensures that you continue to receive the best results possible from Schiller Grounds Care, Inc. products. You can trust Schiller Grounds Care, Inc. replacement parts because they are manufactured with the same high precision and quality as the original parts.

Schiller Grounds Care, Inc. designs and builds its equipment to serve many years in a safe and productive manner. For longest life, use this machine only as directed in the manuals, keep it in good repair and follow safety warnings and instructions. You'll always be glad you did.

**Schiller Grounds Care, Inc.  
1028 Street Road  
Southampton, PA 18966-4217  
Phone: 1-800-366-6268 • Fax (215) 956-3855**

# **Safety Rules & Warnings**

You will notice Safety Rules and Important Notes throughout this Operator/Parts Manual. Make sure you understand and obey these warnings for your own protection.

## **I. Special Safety Information**

### **⚠ WARNING • DANGER ⚠**

**ATTENTION: THIS SYMBOL POINTS OUT  
OUR IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS.**

**WHEN YOU SEE THIS SYMBOL, ⚠  
HEED IT'S WARNING!! STAY ALERT!!**

### **⚠ WARNING • DANGER ⚠**

**TO REDUCE THE POTENTIAL FOR ACCIDENTS, COMPLY  
WITH THE SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS IN THIS MANUAL.**

**FAILURE TO COMPLY MAY RESULT IN SERIOUS PERSONAL  
INJURY, AND/OR EQUIPMENT AND PROPERTY DAMAGE.**

## **II. Safety & Warnings**

### **⚠ WARNING • DANGER ⚠**

**IMPROPER USE OR CARE OF THIS TILLER  
OR FAILURE TO WEAR PROPER PROTECTION  
CAN RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY.**

**READ AND UNDERSTAND THE RULES FOR SAFE OPERATION  
AND ALL INSTRUCTIONS IN THIS MANUAL.**

**WEAR HEARING AND EYE PROTECTION.**



**WARNING:** The Engine Exhaust from this product contains chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm.

### III. Safety Decal Information



P/N 400620



P/N 400620



CUTTING HAZARD; KEEP FEET AND HANDS AWAY FROM ROTATING TIRES.



DO NOT CARRY THE TILLER IN THIS POSITION.



READ OWNER'S MANUAL BEFORE USING TILLER, OR PERFORMING ANY REPAIR OR MAINTENANCE. KEEP OWNERS MANUAL IN A SAFE PLACE.



DON'T FUEL, REFUEL, OR CHECK FUEL WHILE SMOKING, OR NEAR AN OPEN FLAME OR OTHER IGNITION SOURCE.



CAUTION: WHEN ASSEMBLING THE HANDLES, MAKE SURE FUEL TANK FACES AWAY FROM OPERATOR. THIS IS THE REAR OF THE TILLER, REFER TO ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTION ON PAGE 7.



INCORRECT ASSEMBLY.



WEAR EAR AND EYE PROTECTION.

## **⚠ WARNING • DANGER ⚠**

**IF THE TILLER IS USED IMPROPERLY OR SAFETY PRECAUTIONS ARE NOT FOLLOWED,  
THE USERS RISK SERIOUS INJURY TO THEMSELVES AND OTHERS.**

**READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS MANUAL BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO OPERATE THIS TILLER.**

### IV. Warnings - Do's

Read and understand the Operator/Parts manual. Pay particular attention to all sections regarding safety.

**1. Always** keep a firm grip on both handles while the tines are moving and/or the engine is running. BE AWARE!! The tines may coast after throttle trigger is released. Make sure tines have come to a complete stop and engine is off before letting go of the tiller.

**2. Always** maintain a firm footing and good balance. Do not overreach while operating the tiller. Before you start to use the tiller, check the work area for obstacles that might cause you to lose your footing, balance or control of the machine.

**3. Thoroughly** inspect the area where equipment is to be used and remove all objects, which can be thrown by the machine.

**4. Always** keep area clear of children, pets, and bystanders.

**5. Always** stay alert. Watch what you are doing and use common sense. Do not operate unit when fatigued.

**6. Always** dress properly. Do not wear loose clothing or jewelry, they might get caught in moving parts. Use sturdy gloves. Gloves reduce the transmission of vibration to your hands. Prolonged exposure to vibration can cause numbness and other ailments.

**7. While working**, always wear substantial footwear and long trousers. Do not operate the equipment when barefoot or wearing open sandals.

**8. Always** wear ear and eye protection. Eye protection must meet ANSI Z 87.1. To avoid hearing damage, we recommend hearing protection be worn whenever using the equipment.

**9. To reduce fire hazard**, keep the engine, and petrol/gas storage area free of vegetative material and excessive grease.

**10. Start** the engine carefully, according to the manufacturer's instructions and with feet well away from tool(s).

**11. Keep** all nuts, bolts and screws tight to be sure the equipment is in safe working condition.

**12. Use extreme** caution when reversing or pulling the machine towards you.

**13. Work only** in daylight or good artificial light.

**14. Always** be sure of your footing on slopes.

**15. Exercise** extreme caution when changing direction on slopes.

**16. Always** keep a safe distance between two or more people when working together.

**17. Always** inspect your unit before each use and ensure that all handles, guards and fasteners are secure, operating, and in place.

**18. Always** maintain and examine your Tiller with care. Follow maintenance instructions given in manual.

**19. Always** store tiller in a sheltered area (a dry place), not accessible to children. The tiller as well as fuel should not be stored in a house.

## V. Warnings - Don'ts

**Don't** use tiller with one hand. Keep both hands on handles with fingers and thumbs encircling the handles, while tines are moving, and engine is running.

**Don't overreach.** Keep a good footing at all times.

**Don't run** with the machine, walk.

**Don't work** on excessively steep slopes.

**Don't attempt** to clear tines while they are moving. Never try to remove jammed material before switching the engine off and making sure the tines have stopped completely.

**Don't allow** children or incapable people to operate this tiller.

**Don't operate** while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

**Don't attempt** to repair this tiller. Have repairs made by a qualified dealer or repairman. See that only original MANTIS parts are used.

## A **WARNING • DANGER A**

**HANDLE FUEL WITH CARE, IT IS HIGHLY FLAMMABLE. FUELING A HOT ENGINE OR NEAR AN IGNITION SOURCE CAN CAUSE A FIRE AND RESULT IN SERIOUS PERSONAL INJURY AND/OR PROPERTY DAMAGE.**

## VI. Engine/Fuel Warnings - Do's

**Always** use fresh gasoline. Stale gasoline can cause damage.

**Always** store fuel in containers specifically designed for this purpose.

**Always** pull starter cord slowly until resistance is felt. Then pull cord rapidly to avoid kickback and prevent arm or hand injury.

**Always** operate engine with spark arrestor installed and operating properly. The use of spark arrestor mufflers is required by law in the state of California (Section 4442 of the California Public Resources Code), as well as in other states or municipalities. Federal laws apply on federal lands.

**Stop** the engine whenever you leave the machine.

**Allow** the engine to cool before storing in any enclosure.

**If** the fuel tank needs to be drained, this should be done outdoors.

## VII. Engine/Fuel Warnings - Don'ts

**Don't** fuel, refuel or check fuel while smoking, or near an open flame or other ignition source. Stop engine and be sure it is cool before refueling.

**Don't** leave the engine running while the tiller is unattended. Stop engine before putting the tiller down or while transporting from one place to another.

**Don't** refuel, start or run this tiller indoors or in an improperly ventilated area.

**Don't** run engine when electrical system causes spark outside the cylinder. During periodical checks

of the spark plug, keep plug a safe distance from cylinder to avoid burning of evaporated fuel from cylinder.

**Don't** check for spark with spark plug or plug wire removed. Use an approved tester.

**Don't** crank engine with spark plug removed unless spark plug wire is disconnected. Sparks can ignite fumes.

**Don't** run engine when the odor of gasoline is present or other explosive conditions exist.

**Don't** operate the unit if gasoline is spilled. Clean up spill

completely before starting engine.

**Don't** operate your tiller if there is an accumulation of debris around the muffler, and cooling fins.

**Don't** touch hot mufflers, cylinders or cooling fins as contact may cause serious burns.

**Don't** change the engine governor setting or over speed the engine.

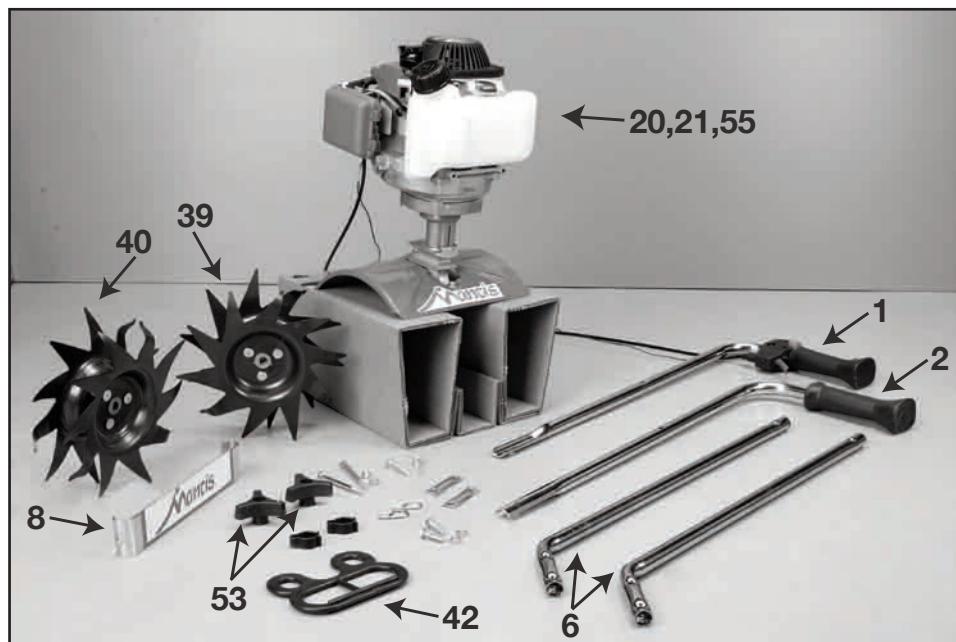
**Don't** attempt to remove spark plug while engine is hot. Removing a spark plug from a hot engine can cause irreparable damage to the engine and will void your warranty.

# Assembly

## ⚠ WARNING · DANGER ⚠

**IMPROPER ASSEMBLY OF THIS TILLER  
CAN RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY.  
MAKE SURE TO FOLLOW ALL  
INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY.**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS  
CONTACT OUR FACTORY AT  
1-800-366-6268  
OR AN AUTHORIZED  
MANTIS DEALER**



Your MANTIS Tiller comes partially assembled. You must install only the handlebars, the carrying handle, and the tines. This will take just a few minutes if you follow the directions.

**First, take all items out of the carton.  
But do not remove the cardboard from  
around the Tiller's base.**

The list at the right, shows the parts that come with your tiller. Check to make sure you have them.

The bag of hardware is in the plastic bag containing the Operator/Parts Manual.

To assemble your MANTIS Tiller, you'll need two 7/16" wrenches. We suggest that you install all nuts and bolts only "finger tight" — that is, one-half to one full turn — until you've completed assembly. **The nuts are self locking, but you must use a wrench to tighten them completely.**

Quantity	Description	*Key #
1	Upper Handle Assembly	2
1	Upper Handle Throttle Side Assembly	1
2	Lower Handles	6
1	Pair Tiller/Cultivator Tines	39,40
1	Engine Assembly (includes Fender Guard & Worm Gear Transmission)	20,21,55
1	Handle Brace	8
1	Plastic Carrying Handle	42
1	Bag of Hardware Containing:	
2	Cap Screws	47
4	Lock Nuts	48
2	Bolts (3" long)	49
2	Tine Retaining Pins	41
2	Handle Clamps	51
1	Throttle Clips	13
2	Bolts	52
2	Knobs	53

\*These numbers are the same numbers shown on the Parts Layout on page 19.

# Assembly *(continued)*

## HOW TO ASSEMBLE LOWER HANDLES

To identify part numbers, see pages 6 and 19.

1. Use the protective cardboard sleeve to stabilize your tiller. Stand the engine assembly (#21) up. (Picture 1)
2. Lay the handle parts within easy reach. You'll need one of the handle clamps (#51) and one of the lower handles (#6). Note that the lower handles have a short leg on one end.
3. Fit the handle clamp along the outside of the short leg. Line up the holes on the clamp and the leg.
4. Choose one of the two 3-inch bolts (#49). Slide it through the first set of holes — near the elbow where the lower handle curves. (Pictures 2 & 3)
5. Now slide the other lower handle onto the 3-inch bolt. Fit the other

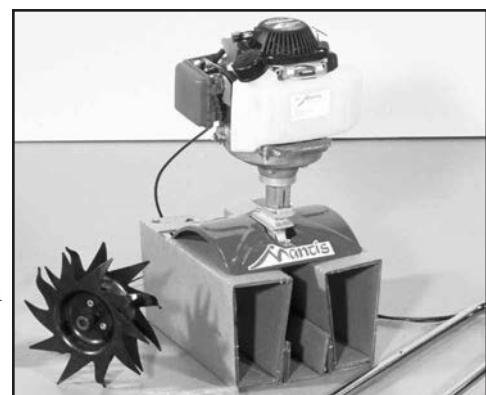
clamp onto this other handle's short leg. Add a nut and tighten finger tight. (Picture 3)

6. Locate the worm gear housing. It starts just above — and extends down through — the tiller's red fender guard. You'll notice that there's a recessed channel on either side of the housing's top. (Picture 4.)

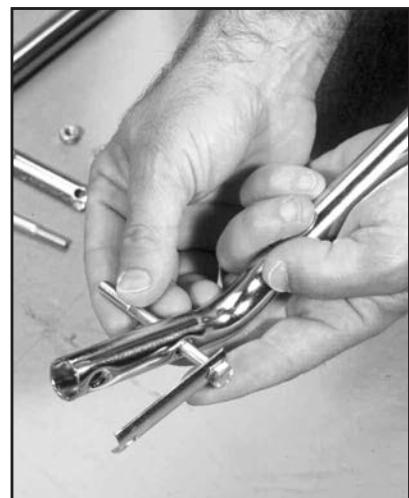
7. Take the lower handles that you've just put together. Slide them into the two recessed channels. (Picture 5.)

Make sure you insert them from the rear of the tiller (gasoline tank faces away from the operator)... so that the bolt fits along the back of the housing.

8. Slide the second 3-inch bolt through the second set of holes in the short legs. Add a nut and tighten finger tight.



Picture 1



Picture 2

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**NOTE: THE LOCK NUTS ARE STAMPED. FINGER TIGHT IS APPROXIMATELY 1/2 TO 1-1/2 TURNS.**

---



Picture 3



Picture 4



Picture 5

# Assembly *(continued)*

## How to Assemble Upper Handles and Carrying Handle

1. Lightly squeeze the lower handles (#6) toward one another so that they line up with the two smaller holes on the carrying handle (#42). Then slide the carrying handle over and down the lower handles. It will rest about four to six inches above the fender. (Picture 1)
2. Gently pull the lower handles out to their original position.
3. Attach the upper handle assembly (#1) – the handle with the throttle cable and ground wire – onto the right lower handle, and secure with the handle knob (#53). (Picture 2)



Picture 1

and 3) Be sure you have proper throttle movements and that the throttle cable is not wrapped or twisted around the handle bar.

Locate the red lockout button located on the throttle handle (Picture 3). Press the red lockout button and squeeze the throttle lever and let go. The triangle must click in both directions. If there is any doubt, remove air filter and visually check that the throttle triangle hits both the idle screw and the full open stop.

### THIS MUST BE DONE BEFORE STARTING THE ENGINE.

4. Follow the same steps to install the other upper handle onto the other lower handle. (Picture 3)
5. Use the clip (#13) to secure the throttle cable and wire in place on the lower handle. (Picture 4)

6. Now install the Handle Brace. Line it up with the holes on the upper handles. Then insert a Cap Screw and a Lock Nut on either side (Picture 5)

7. Use a wrench to tighten Cap Screws and Lock Nuts.
8. Now use wrench to tighten all nuts and bolts firmly and securely.

### IMPORTANT NOTE:

**Make sure you have installed the handles properly. When you stand behind your tiller, holding the handles, the gas tank is facing away from you, on the front side of the engine.**

**⚠ WARNING:** Improper throttle installation can cause tines to rotate unexpectedly .

**⚠ WARNING • DANGER ⚠**  
**REMOVE TINES BEFORE STARTING ENGINE AND MAKING ADJUSTMENTS.**



Picture 2



Picture 3



Picture 4



Picture 5

# Assembly *(continued)*

## Assembling the Tines for Tilling

1. Remove the cardboard from around your Tiller's base.
2. Slide the tines onto the axle shafts. The "D" hole goes on the outside. (Picture 1)
3. Make sure you've installed the tines properly for tilling. Liken the tines to your fingers. When your palm faces the ground, your fingers curl down. Stand behind the Tiller and hold your hand next to the tines. Do the tine blades curl down, as your fingers do? If so, they are in the *tilling* position. (To switch to the cultivating position, see page 14.)

4. To secure each tine to the axle, insert a tine retaining pin.

### IMPORTANT NOTE:

**Before starting your 4-Cycle/MANTIS Tiller, add the premeasured (80ml) bottle of 4-Cycle engine oil. See MANTIS Classic 4-Cycle Tiller Engine Manual and information below for details.**



Picture 1

### IMPORTANT NOTE:

**Before you use your MANTIS Tiller, read the Safety Rules & Warnings on pages 3-5.**

## Checking the Oil Level in the Engine's Oil Sump

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Before using your new MANTIS Classic 4-Cycle Tiller for the first time, it is important to check the oil level in the engines oil sump. The bottle of oil supplied with this machine holds 80ml of the correct grade of engine oil. The sump of the engine holds 80ml of oil.

*Please follow the notes below for full instructions how to check the oil level in the engine.*

### How to fill the engines oil sump before using your new MANTIS Tiller:

1. Rock the tiller forward so that it rests on its fuel tank.
2. Remove the grey sump plug and top up the oil using the correct type of oil so that it is level with the inner first thread of the sump plug. (Picture 2)

Oil type 10W/40 or 20W/40 can be used if the specified grade is unavailable.



Picture 2

### IMPORTANT NOTE:

**Check the oil level in the engine before each use. If oil is low, top it off with 10W-30 before using. See your MANTIS Classic 4-Cycle Tiller Engine Manual and information above**

## ⚠ WARNING • DANGER ⚠

**FUEL IS EXTREMELY FLAMMABLE. HANDLE IT WITH CARE. KEEP AWAY FROM IGNITION SOURCES. DO NOT SMOKE WHILE FUELING YOUR EQUIPMENT.**

**Never use starting fluids as they will cause permanent engine damage. Using them will void the warranty. Before you use the tiller, read the Safety & Warning rules on pages 3-6.**

# Assembly *(continued)*

## **Oil Overfill Warning**

Do not overfill! Adding too much or too little oil may cause damage to the engine and void the warranty.

Overfilling may cause:

1. Hard starting or a locked piston - caused by excess oil in the combustion chamber.
2. Poor engine performance and loss of power
3. Excessive smoke coming from the muffler and around the engine while running.
4. Oil leaking form the carburetor/aircleaner.
5. Oil leaking from the muffler.



High pull force



Handle locked in place



## **Corrective Action**

If you suspect the engine is overfilled the following procedure should remove the excess oil from the crankcase and valve cover.

If the engine is overfilled, oil will enter the crankcase and it does not simply pour out of the oil fill opening. The excessive oil has to be pumped out as the engine runs. Checking the oil

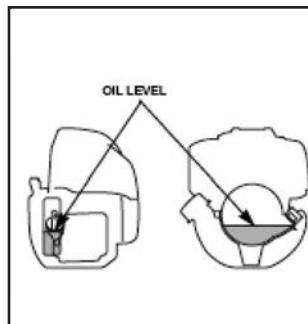
level and draining any excess between multiple 30 second running intervals will bring the oil back to the proper level.

1. Place the engine on a level surface resting flat on the fuel tank and remove the oil fill cap/dipstick. Use a catch basin for any oil that overflows from the oil fill opening.
2. Replace the oil fill cap/dipstick and run the

engine for approximately 30 seconds then repeat step one. Continue steps 1 & 2 until oil no longer overflows when the oil fill cap/dipstick is removed.

3. Once the oil level is corrected the engine may continue to smoke while running for several minutes while the residual oil burns off.

## **Proper Oil Fill/Level Check Position**



Engine must be resting on a flat surface on the fuel tank

This position does not allow for a proper oil level reading and may cause overfilling.

# Starting

## TO START YOUR TILLER FOR THE FIRST TIME:

First, fill the fuel tank with the proper amount of gasoline (Use branded 89 octane (R+M+2) unleaded gasoline or gasohol—maximum 10% ethyl alcohol, or 15% MTBE, no methyl alcohol.)

### MANTIS Tiller Starting Instructions (4-Cycle engine)

#### IMPORTANT!

**It is normal for your 4-Cycle engine to smoke for the first minute or two of operation, however it is not necessary for this to occur every time. This is a result of the oil being pulled through the engine for lubrication.**

#### Cold Engine

1. Place the **o/h** switch into the **I** “start/on” position. (Picture 1)
2. Choke the engine (or close the choke. Move choke up to the closed position.) (Picture 2)
3. Push primer bulb 6 times. (Picture 3)
4. Pull grip slowly until you feel resistance then pull briskly. (Picture 4)
5. Once the engine is running, slowly push the choke lever



Picture 2



Picture 3



Picture 4



Picture 5



Picture 6

down to the run position—the engine will continue to run. (Picture 5)

#### Warm Engine

1. Push ignition switch to **I** “start/on” position.

Push to Stop/Off      Push to Start/On



2. Pull grip slowly until you feel resistance then pull briskly. Make sure the choke is in the open, or run, position.

**NOTE: When the choke is closed, never pull the cord more than four or five times. Over-pulling may cause flooding.**

Follow these steps whenever you are starting the engine “cold”, or when the engine has run dry and you have just added fuel.

Remember, always use short, brisk pulls. Don’t give the cord a long, forceful yank. And, do not let the cord snap back into the starter housing.

**WARNING**

**AVOID ACCIDENTAL BLADE ENGAGEMENT**

**DO NOT SQUEEZE THE THROTTLE TRIGGER WHEN STARTING.**

**MAINTAIN PROPER IDLE SPEED ADJUSTMENT (2500-3100 RPM)**



Picture 1

#### How to Stop the Engine

Simply push the **o/h** “stop/ start” switch to **“o”** (Picture 6). This will stop the engine instantly. If it should ever fail to do so, just pull the choke up to the closed position. The engine will stop at once.

#### About the Choke

The choke controls the amount of air drawn into the engine. Your tiller will run only if the choke is open.

#### **WARNING • DANGER**

**IF ENGINE DOES NOT STOP WHEN SWITCH IS PUT IN THE STOP POSITION, RELEASE THE THROTTLE, ALLOW ENGINE TO IDLE, PUT THE TILLER DOWN AND PULL THE CHOKE BUTTON OUT TO SHUT ENGINE DOWN. HAVE PRODUCT SERVICED BEFORE USING.**

# Additional Information

## ⚠ WARNING • DANGER ⚠

**IF ENGINE DOES NOT STOP WHEN SWITCH IS PUT IN THE STOP POSITION, RELEASE THE THROTTLE, ALLOW ENGINE TO IDLE. PUT THE TILLER DOWN, AND SLIDE THE CHOKE LEVER FORWARD TO THE COLD START (CLOSED) POSITION. CHECK AND RETURN IGNITION SWITCH TO ON POSITION BEFORE STARTING ENGINE AGAIN.**

### A Special Feature (with the idle set properly and the engine running)

Even when the engine is running, the tines won't turn unless you press the throttle lever on the handlebars. And, when you release the throttle lever, the tines will stop.

### A Tip for Extending Your Engine's Life

After you start the engine, let your tiller warm up for two to three minutes before you use it. Then, before you put your tiller away, let it idle for a minute to give the engine a chance to cool down.

### Operation

With engine running, and both hands on the handles, press the throttle lock out button (Picture 4), then squeeze the throttle trigger gradually to increase the engine speed and engage the tines.

**NOTE:** This step must be repeated each time your tiller trigger is released.

**NOTE:** Once the throttle trigger is squeezed, you can release the lockout button (Picture 5).



Picture 4

### How to get your tiller to your garden

#### Walk it.

Once your tiller is running, you can "walk" it to your garden. Just press the throttle lever gently and let the tiller "tip-toe" across your yard on its tines. It won't hurt your lawn or driveway. (Picture 1)



Picture 1

#### Carry It.

Make sure the engine is off. Then use one hand to grasp the convenient carrying handle. Use the other hand to hold the handlebars. (Picture 2) Then lift your tiller and carry it to your garden. Since it weighs only 24 pounds, it won't strain your muscles or tire you out!



Picture 2

#### Take It for a Ride.

You can easily transport your MANTIS Tiller to a friend's or relative's house. Just empty the fuel tank. (**This is crucial.**) Then stow your Tiller in the trunk of your car or truck. It fits easily. And you can put it in and take it out without straining your back.



Picture 3

**⚠ WARNING ⚠**  
**NEVER CARRY YOUR TILLER AS THE PERSON IN PICTURE 7 IS DOING. IF YOU DO, YOU WILL SUFFER SERIOUS INJURY.**



Picture 5



Picture 6



Picture 7

# Tilling



Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3

## Now You're Ready to Use Your MANTIS Tiller.

If you've seen other tillers, your MANTIS Tiller may surprise you. It tills best when you pull it backward! You see, when you pull your MANTIS Tiller backward, you give extra resistance to the tines, so they dig deeper. (Picture 1)

What's more when you go backward, you erase your footprints. So your soil stays light and fluffy. With other tillers, by contrast, you walk right over the soil you've just tilled, packing it down, so it's less plantable.

## Run Your MANTIS Tiller like a Vacuum Cleaner.

Place your Tiller at the head of the row or area you want to till. Start it up. Then use an easy rocking motion. First, pull your Tiller backward. Then use an easy rocking motion. Again, pull your Tiller backward. Then, let it move forward just a little bit. Then pull it backward again. This will help you till deeper.

Keep repeating these steps until you've tilled an entire row. Start again on the next row. It's much like running a vacuum cleaner! (Picture 2)

## You Can Even Control Depth.

### For Deeper Tilling:

Move your Tiller slowly back and forth, as you would a vacuum cleaner. Work the same area over and over until you've dug to your desired depth. (Picture 3)

### For Shallow Tilling:

Switch the tines to the cultivating position. (See page 10 to learn how.) Then move your Tiller quickly over your soil surface.

### For Big Weeds or Tough Roots:

Let your Tiller rock back and forth over the tough spot, until the tines slice through the weed or root.

## Your MANTIS Tiller Handles Special Tilling Projects.

Want to turn part of your lawn into a colorful flower border? Your MANTIS Tiller makes it easy! Just run your Tiller back and forth until the sod begins to break up. Then continue tilling. Your Tiller will chop the clumps of sod until they're fine. Then, it will work them into the soil. Pretty soon, you'll have a soft, fresh planting bed.

## ⚠ WARNING • DANGER ⚠

**THE OPERATOR OF THIS TILLER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS OR HAZARDS OCCURRING TO HIMSELF, OTHER PEOPLE OR THEIR PROPERTY.**

## ⚠ WARNING • DANGER ⚠

**IF YOUR TINES GET JAMMED OR ENTANGLED, SHUT OFF THE ENGINE AT ONCE.  
REMOVE THE OBSTRUCTION WHILE THE ENGINE IS OFF.  
NEVER TRY TO REMOVE AN OBSTRUCTION WHILE THE ENGINE IS RUNNING.  
SERIOUS INJURY CAN RESULT.**

# Tilling

## How about a family-size vegetable garden?

Nowadays many gardeners prefer small gardens — especially in the suburbs, where space is at a premium. But, if you're fortunate enough to own a large lot, you can create a bigger garden — a half acre or more.

Although your MANTIS Tiller could handle the job, the project could be completed faster if you were to hire someone with a tractor or larger tiller to break the ground for you. This is a one-time-only investment that's well worth the small cost.

**▲ IMPORTANT ▲**  
**To change the tines on your 4-Cycle MANTIS Tiller, push the tiller forward and allow it to rest on the engine.**



Picture 1



Picture 2

## Your MANTIS Tiller Makes Weeding a Pleasure!

As a tiller, your MANTIS Tiller works the soil down to 10" (25.4 cm) deep. But, as a cultivator, it gently cultivates the surface, only 2" to 3" (5.09 cm to 7.62 cm) deep.

First, you must switch the tines to the weeding position. This takes less than a minute.

Then, your MANTIS Tiller's sharp "tine teeth" will slice up those pesky weeds, burying them as you go along. And, since the tines in this position won't dig too deep, they won't hurt your plants' precious root systems.

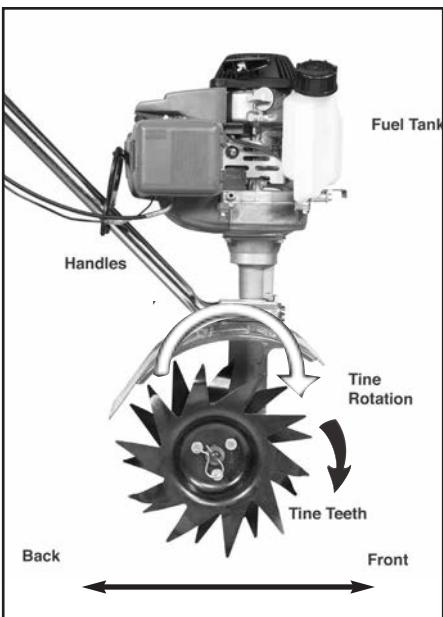
The result? Your Tiller will cut your weeding time in half, and turn a tiresome chore into a pleasure.



## How to Switch From Tilling to Cultivating Position

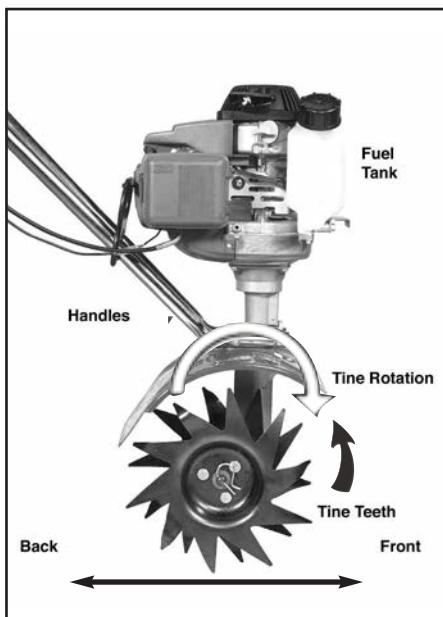
1. Make sure your Tiller is off.
2. Remove the retaining pins from the tines. (Picture 2)
3. Remove the tines from the axle.
4. Place the right-side tine onto the left-side axle. Place the left side tine onto the right-side axle. The "D" hole should be to the outside.
5. Here is how to make sure you've installed the tines properly. Stand behind the Tiller and hold your hand, palm up, next to the tines. Do the tine points curl up, as your fingers do? If so, they are in the correct cultivating position. (See photos on Page 14)
6. Reinsert the pins.

# Cultivating



## Tilling Position

Tine teeth point in the same direction as the rotation of the tine; or toward the front of the Tiller, away from the operator.



## Cultivating Position

Tine teeth point in the opposite direction as the rotation of the tine. Tines point toward the back of the tiller, or toward the operator.

## Now You're Ready to Cultivate or Weed.

Guide your Tiller where you want to weed and start it up. Pull your Tiller backward slowly, then let it move forward a bit, in a gentle rocking motion. Watch it slice, shred, and bury those weeds!

Got tough weeds? Lighten your pressure on the throttle to slow your Tiller down. Then work back and forth until your Tiller chops up the weeds. It's easy and effective!

Remember, any tiller will tangle in tall grass, stringy vines, or super-big weeds. So, if you have a "backyard jungle," first use a knife, pruner, or brush cutter to chop up the overgrowth. If the tines become tangled anyway, turn the engine off completely before trying to clear them.

The optional Tine Detangler (Item #1322) will clear tines in a jiffy. Contact your local authorized MANTIS dealer or call 1-800-366-6268 to order.

## Your MANTIS Tiller Will Weed Between Narrow Rows!

Your MANTIS Tiller is a precision weeder that easily fits in tight places. So don't be afraid to weed anywhere: between plants and shrubs, in corners, against fences, on raised beds, in wide rows, even in very narrow rows. Your MANTIS Tiller weeds six\* to nine inches wide. So you can run it in a tightly planted garden



without damaging your delicate plants. That's good news for suburban gardeners, who often have to plant rows close together!

\*With optional Planter Furrower attachment.  
(Item #6222)

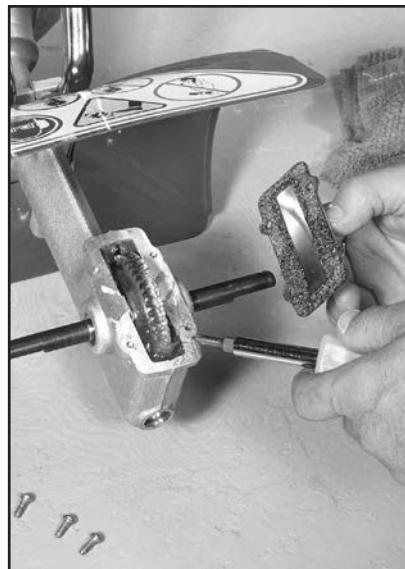
# Maintenance

## How to Check the Grease Level Inside the Worm Gear Housing

When we built your MANTIS Tiller, we lubricated the worm gear housing thoroughly.

It is imperative that you inspect the grease level once a year. Simply remove the cover plate on the worm gear housing. (Picture 1) Then check to make sure the grease comes almost to the top of the housing. If it doesn't, add lithium #0 grease (Item M9985.) This is the only way to add grease to the worm gear housing. (Picture 1) To purchase MANTIS grease, contact your local authorized MANTIS dealer or call our Sales Department at 1-800-366-6268.

Please do not overfill. Too much grease can create pressure, which could cause seals to fail or the clutch to slip.



Picture 1

## How to Reseat the Flange

At some point, you may find that the tines won't turn when you press the throttle. This may mean the engine isn't sitting all the way down on the worm gear housing.

Perhaps you've been using your Tiller for several years. The flange bolt (Key #12, Page 18) may have come loose and lifted the engine up.

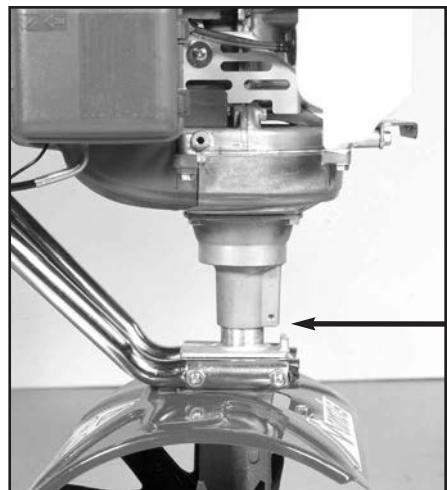
If this happened you'll notice a gap between the bottom of the engine flange (Key #43, Page 18) and the top of the worm gear housing. (Picture 2)

To fix this, loosen the flange bolt. Take the engine off the worm gear housing. Notice the hex head on top of the drive shaft (Key #22, Page 18). Inside the flange housing, you'll find the clutch drum (Key #57, Page 18). Make sure the hex head

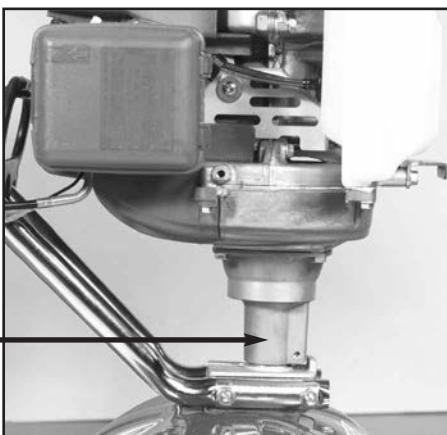
lines up with the clutch drum inside the flange housing.

Then put the engine back on the worm gear housing. Make sure the plastic carrying handle is not under the engine.

If you've followed these steps properly, there will be no gap between the engine flange and the worm gear housing. (Picture 3) Make sure you tighten the flange bolt!



Picture 2 ... Note how the engine doesn't sit all the way down on the transmission.



Picture 3... Note how the engine sits all the way down on the transmission.

# Storage

## ⚠ WARNING • DANGER ⚠

**DO NOT STORE IN AN AREA WHERE FUEL FUMES MAY ACCUMULATE AND REACH A FLAME OR SPARK.**

Each fall, or before you store your MANTIS Tiller for any long period, be sure to take these measures:

1. Do not store your Tiller with fuel still in it. Even under ideal conditions, stored fuel containing ethanol or MTBE can start to go stale in 30 days. And, since stale fuel has a high gum content, it can clog the carburetor, this, in turn, will restrict fuel flow. Therefore, when you're ready to store your Tiller, or will not be using it for more than 2 weeks, drain the fuel tank completely.
2. Next, restart the engine to make sure no fuel is left in the carburetor. Then, run the engine until it stops. This will prevent gum deposits, forming inside of the carburetor and possible engine damage.
3. Disconnect spark plug wire and remove the spark plug. Slowly pull the starter cord once.
4. Inspect the spark plug, and if necessary, clean it. If you need to replace it, buy a NGK-CMR5H.
5. Install the spark plug, but leave the spark plug wire disconnected.
6. Clean the air filter as described in your MANTIS Classic 4-Cycle Tiller Engine Manual.
7. Clean dirt, grass and other materials from the entire machine.
8. Wipe the tines with oil or spray

them with WD-40, to prevent rusting.

9. Oil the throttle cable and all visible moving parts. (Do not remove the engine cover.)
10. Replace the fuel filter.
11. Check the grease level in the worm gear housing as described on page 15.
12. Order new MANTIS® parts to replace any that are badly worn or broken call 1-800-366-6268. For Honda®, engine parts, please contact your nearest Honda® dealer.
13. Store your Tiller in an upright position in a clean, dry place. You can store with the handles in an extended position or folded down.
14. To fold the handles, follow these easy steps: Loosen the handle knobs (#40) then fold the handles forward. Tighten knob securely. Your handles are now folded and ready to store in a smaller area.
15. Do you have fuel left over from last season? Dispose of it properly. Buy fresh oil and gasoline next season.
16. Remove Tilling Tines or attachments and lightly oil tine shaft at least once a year.

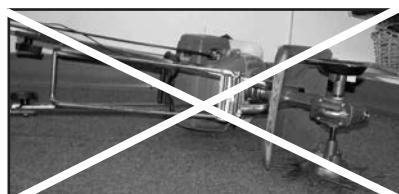
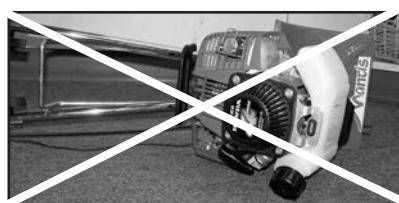
You may store your MANTIS Tiller with the handles upright as in Picture 1 or with the handles folded down, as in Picture 2.



Picture 1



Picture 2



## ⚠ IMPORTANT ⚠

**It is important to store your 4-Cycle MANTIS Tiller in an upright position. Laying the Tiller on its side will cause the oil to leak out of the engine through the air cleaner case.**

## ⚠ IMPORTANT ⚠

**Avoid any orientation that places the top cover (engine head) down -this may allow oil from the crankcase to enter the combustion chamber and cause hard starting or a locked piston.**

# Using the Border Edger Attachment

Your MANTIS Tiller has been designed and built to accept a wide range of MANTIS Tiller Attachments to increase its usefulness in your lawn and garden. And, all MANTIS Tiller Attachments have been designed for quick and easy attachment to the Tiller or Engine.

## The Border Edger (Item #3222)

The most popular attachment, the Border Edger can be used to cut clean, neat edges along walkways, or around trees, shrubs, and garden beds.

The Border Edger has two parts: a wheel and a hardened steel blade, with pointed tines.

## How to Install the Border Edger

The following instructions refer to "right" and "left" axles. Assume that you're standing behind your Tiller, as you would for tilling and cultivating.

Some areas of your yard may harbor roots and other underground obstructions. In places like this you'll want to edge your borders shallowly (1" to 2" deep). Here's how to install the Border Edger for shallow edging:

1. First remove your Tilling/Cultivating tines.
2. Then slide the Edger's wheel onto the right axle.
3. Now slide the Edger blade onto the left axle. The blade's angled face should hit the ground when you spin the blade forward.
4. Insert retaining pins on both left and right axles.

Around walkways and garden beds, you'll want to edge more deeply (3" to 4" deep). Here's how to install the Border Edger for that purpose:

1. Remove the Tilling/ Cultivating tines.
2. Slide the Edger's blade onto the right axle. The blade's pointed face should hit the ground when you spin the blade forward.
3. Slide the wheel onto the left axle.
4. Insert retaining pins on both sides.

## How to Use the Border Edger

1. Position your MANTIS Tiller so that the Edger blade is right along the garden edge and the wheel is outside (on the lawn, on the sidewalk, wherever). (Picture 1)
2. Start your Tiller and pull your MANTIS backward along the garden edge.



Picture 1

## The Border Edger Can Handle Special Projects!

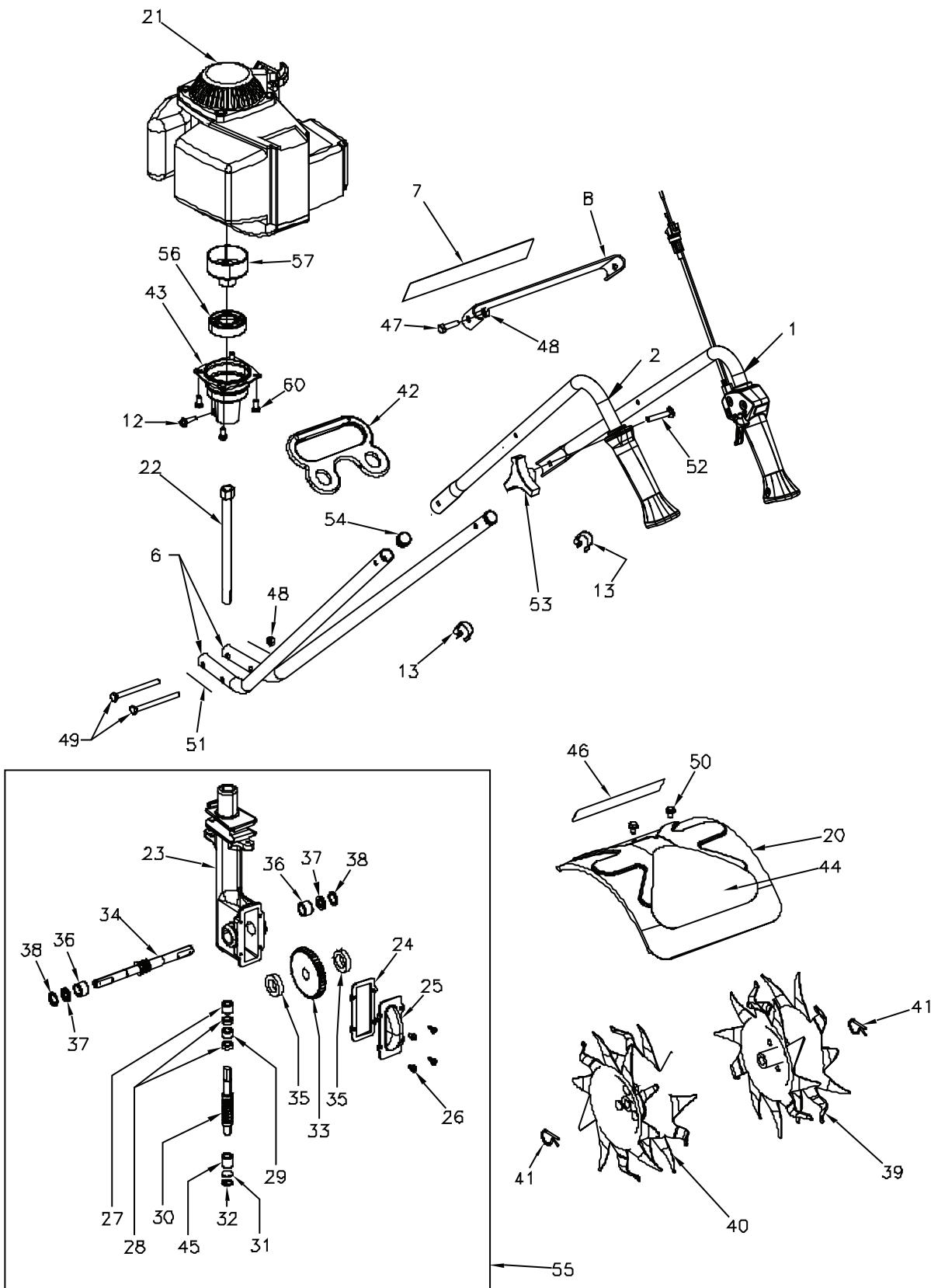
1. Install the Edger for deep edging, as directed above. Then use it to cut sod strips.
2. Edge and weed at the same time! Just attach the Edger blade on one axle and a Tiller blade on the other axle, "Mix and match" blades; don't be afraid to experiment.

## IMPORTANT NOTE:

If you do a lot of edging, you'll appreciate the MANTIS Wheel Set (Item#9222.) It gives you added stability, for even easier handling.

To order the Wheel Set, or any MANTIS Attachment, contact your local authorized MANTIS dealer.

# Tiller Parts Assembly



# Engine Parts Assembly

KEY #	QTY	MATERIAL	KEY #	QTY	MATERIAL
1	1	400257 TRIGGER HANDLE ASSM. RH	34	1	TINE SHAFT
2	1	400255 HANDLE ASSM. LH	35	2	WORM GEAR THRUST
6	2	400224 LOWER HANDLE - FOLD DOWN	36	2	WASHER
7	1	400620 LABEL	37	2	WORM GEAR BEARING
8	1	148 HANDLE BRACE	38	2	BEARING
12	1	910502 10-32 X 3/4 - FLANGED BOLT	39	1	BEARING SEAL RETAINER
13	2	478 THROTTLE CLIP	40	1	438RA TINE ASSY - RT
20	1	465 FENDER GUARD	41	2	438LA TINE ASSY - LT
21	1	400911 ENGINE ASSY - 25cc 4 STROKE	42	1	418-1 TINE RETAINING HAIR PIN
22*	1	468 DRIVE SHAFT	43	1	CARRYING HANDLE
23	1	466 WORM GEAR HOUSING	44	1	ENGINE FLANGE
24	1	436 GASKET	45	1	TINE LABEL
25	1	437A HOUSING COVER	46	1	ROLLER BEARING
26	4	651 RD. HD. SELF TAPPING SCREW	47	2	MANTIS LABEL
27	1	423 ROLLER BEARING	48	2	CAP SCREW 1/4-20 X 1" LG.
28	2	425 WORM BEARING RACE	49	2	LOCK NUT 1/4 - 20
29	1	424 WORM THRUST BEARING	50	2	1/4-20 X 3" BOLT
30	1	422 WORM SHAFT	51	2	BOLT 1/4 - 20 X 3/8" LG.
31	1	426 WORM DISK	52	2	HANDLE CLAMP
32	1	428 RETAINING RING	53	2	400509 BOLT
33	1	429 WORM GEAR	54	2	400523 KNOB
			55	1	400230 PLUG
			56	1	400010 TRANSMISSION ASSEMBLY
			57	1	400132 BEARING
			58	1	400131 CLUTCH DRUM
			59	4	400511 M6 X 12 - FLANGED BOLT
			60	4	

\* Also in Key #55

# **MANTIS TILLER LIMITED WARRANTY**

MANTIS extends this limited warranty against defects in material and workmanship for a period of five (5) years for normal residential purposes and two (2) years for commercial use from the date of purchase, to the first retail purchaser and each subsequent owner, during the warranty period. This warranty covers all portions of the MANTIS TILLER.

MANTIS will repair or replace, at its option, any part or parts of the product proven to be defective in material or workmanship under normal usage during the warranty period. Warranty repairs and replacements will be made without charge for parts or labor. All parts replaced under warranty will be considered as part of the original product, and any warranty on the replaced parts will expire coincident with the original product warranty. If you think your MANTIS TILLER is defective in material or workmanship, you must send it, along with your proof of purchase (sales receipt) to:

MANTIS  
1028 Street Road  
Southampton, PA 18966

You are responsible for pickup and delivery charges; the product must be returned to us postage paid.

MANTIS assumes no responsibility in the event that the product was not assembled or used in compliance with any assembly, care, safety, or operating instructions contained in the Operator/Parts Manual or accompanying the product; was not used with reasonable care or requires replacement or repair due to accidents or lack of proper maintenance; or was misused,

altered, used for other than normal or intended purposes. This warranty does not cover damage due to normal wear and tear.

You must maintain your MANTIS TILLER by following the maintenance procedures described in the Operator/Parts manual. Such routine maintenance, whether performed by you or a dealer, is at your expense.

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